



The Scoop

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The Challenge: Close the Gap on Women's Health

You hold the key to advancing your health and the health of future generations of Kentucky women by participating in the [Kentucky Women's Health Registry](#). Contribute from the comfort of your home. Cost? 15 minutes. Value? Priceless.

Why is the Registry important? Until recently, complex social, medical & cultural beliefs excluded most women from medical research studies. An assumption was made that women would react to a drug or treatment therapy the same way as men.

It's not ancient history.

1998: The federal Government Accounting Office (GAO) stated the Federal Drug Administration needed to ensure more study of gender differences in prescription drug testing.
2001: A GAO report on drug safety stated most drugs removed from the market had greater risks for women.

Saying "Good-bye" to 2011

... And looking back at a few highlights from a year of working to improve the status of women.

- Establishment of a new community collaboration to work on issues of violence and sexual assault—Coalition on Intimate Violence in International Communities (CIVIC). CIVIC hosted a Summit at the Americana Community Center in May, 2011.
- OFW added a [Facebook](#) page where "friends" and community partners can share news, comments and hold discussions.
- Numerous awareness activities by Metro offices and community partners focused on violence against women, women's health and economic well-being.
- OFW hosted 2011 Women's Equality Day Summit in August in collaboration with Women 4 Women, U of L Kent School, and the Center for Women and Families.
- September 2011 brought good news: Continued funding, through 2014, by the federal Department of Justice/Office on Violence Against Women for the Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center. OFW serves as project director of the program in which Family & Children's Place and The Home of the Innocents provide services to families who have a history or risk of domestic violence.
- 2 OFW interns were recruited to work on women's issues such as health and dating violence beginning in January 2012.

2012 Observances:

JANUARY is:

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Kentucky has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the U.S. The affected population is younger than the national average.

Thanks to projects like Kentucky Women's Health Registry we also know victims of intimate partner violence (IPV), adult exposure to forced sex & child exposure to sexual abuse are at increased risk of cervical cancer.

Stalking Awareness Month

Watch for OFW's January Newsletter for more information on stalking.

Notable Women Remembered in January:

January 11th—[Amelia Earhart](#)
January 28th—[Christa McAuliffe](#)

FEBRUARY is:

Black History Month: [PBS Programming](#)
Cancer Prevention Month: [Reduce Your Risk](#)
Heart Health Awareness Month: [Wear Red Day](#)

Check these locations for more news:

- [OFW Calendar](#)
- [Announcements](#) Page for local happenings
- [OFW Louisville on Facebook](#)

What the Registry is here to do:



Gather information to help medical researchers find out [why diseases affect women differently](#) than men. This will improve women's health for ourselves, our daughters, and future generations! Visit the Registry on [Facebook](#). Spread the word!

Data is broken down by county More women in the Registry means more information and better women's health. *If you are age 18-89 you're eligible.* Jefferson County has approximately 280,000 women eligible for the Registry. 3,000 participate. *Fayette County, where half as many women live has 4,000 women registered.*
Take the challenge: [Invest 15 minutes](#) to close the gap on women's health in Kentucky.